

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Clark et al. (6,904,717).

Analysis

Applicants amend the claims to more clearly define the present invention which provides for a smaller door closer device by utilizing two or more motors in parallel, along with two or more driving gears (worms) each directly engaged with the same driven gear (see claims 1 and 3). Moreover, the driving gears (worms) are engaged respectively with an upper portion and a lower portion of the driven gear (worm wheel) (see claims 2 and 4).

Claim 1 is distinguishable from Clark because Clark fails to teach or suggest two or more motors provided in parallel. Clark merely discloses more than one motor in the entire disclosure, but they do not work in parallel with each other. In addition, claim 1 is distinguishable from Clark because Clark fails to teach or suggest that driving gears provided for each motor are each directly engaged with the same driven gear. Clark fails to teach or suggest this physical structure. Thus, amended claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 2 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 by virtue of its dependency therefrom. Moreover, claim 2 is additionally patentable because Clark fails to disclose two driving gears engaged with an upper portion and lower portion of the same driven gear.

Claim 3 is distinguishable from Clark for similar reasons to claim 1. Namely, Clark fails to teach or suggest two or more motors provided in parallel, each having a driving gear that is directly engaged with the same driven gear. Thus, claim 3 is patentable.

Claims 4-6 are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, by virtue of their dependency therefrom. Moreover, claim 4 is additionally patentable because Clark fails to disclose two or more driving gears engaged with an upper portion and a lower portion of the same driven gear.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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